



# County of San Diego

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**DARREN GRETLER**  
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August 25, 2016

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
Department of Water Resources  
901 P Street, Room 213A  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Delivery via E-Mail  
([MarkNordberg@water.ca.gov](mailto:MarkNordberg@water.ca.gov))

## **NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE SAN LUIS REY VALLEY, SAN PASQUAL VALLEY AND SAN DIEGO RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASINS**

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.8, the County of San Diego (County), a political subdivision of the State of California, gives notice to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) of the County's decision to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and to undertake sustainable groundwater management in each of the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 9-7), the San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 9-10) and the San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 9-15) [Basins]. The County overlies the Basins as indicated on the maps included with Attachment 1.

On August 3, 2016, the County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing in accordance with California Water Code Section 10723(b). The public hearing was noticed in *The Daily Transcript* for two successive weeks as required by Government Code Section 6066 (Attachment 2).

After holding the public hearing, the County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution Number 16-102 (Attachment 1) electing to become a GSA over San Luis Rey Valley, the San Pasqual Valley and the San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins. No new bylaws, ordinances, or authorities pertaining to those actions were adopted by the County at that time.

The County is coordinating with other local agencies that overlie each medium-priority basin within San Diego County and intends to work cooperatively with those agencies to jointly manage groundwater in each basin. It should be noted that based on prior decisions by the State of California, the groundwater in the Mission, Bonsall, and Pala Subbasins of the San Luis Rey Valley Basin have been determined to be a subterranean stream flowing through known and definite channels (i.e., does not contain groundwater). Since SGMA specifically excludes subterranean streams from its requirements, the County decided to be GSA over the groundwater portion (Pauma Valley Subbasin).

The County Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of Planning & Development Services to negotiate inter-agency agreements with local public agencies overlying each basin, as necessary for the purpose of implementing a cooperative and coordinated governance structure to sustainably manage each basin. To date, Mootamai, Pauma, Valley Center, and Yuima Municipal Water Districts (MWDs) and Pauma Valley Community Services District have provided notice to DWR of their intent to form GSAs over portions of the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin in Pauma Valley. No other entities within the County's proposed GSA boundaries have provided notice to DWR to become a GSA.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2, the County will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). An initial list of stakeholders and interested parties is described below.

- a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights – The majority of individuals and entities exercising overlying groundwater rights within the County have an existing relationship with the County via well permitting requirements and compliance with the County's Groundwater Ordinance. Those entities include agricultural users, domestic well owners, other overlying groundwater users, and public and private land owners.
- b) Municipal well operators/water districts – City of San Diego, Padre Dam MWD, Helix Water District, Lakeside Water District, Yuima MWD, Pauma MWD, Mootamai MWD, Valley Center MWD, Rincon Del Diablo MWD.
- c) Public water systems – Several mutual water companies.
- d) Local land use planning agencies – County, cities of San Diego, Santee, and Escondido.
- e) Environmental users of groundwater.
- f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.
- g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands – There are several federal agencies that may hold or manage land overlying groundwater basins within the jurisdictional boundary of San Diego County GSAs, including, without limitation, the following:

- 1) U.S. Bureau of Land Management,
  - 2) U.S. Marines (Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton),
  - 3) U.S. Navy (Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station),
  - 4) U.S. Postal Service,
  - 5) U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,
  - 6) U.S. Department of Agriculture (Cleveland National Forest),
  - 7) U.S. General Services Administration, and
  - 8) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- h) California Native American tribes – La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon and San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians.
- i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.
- j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency – The County and cities of San Diego and Oceanside; and the Helix, Lakeside, Yuima, and Padre Dam Municipal Water Districts have filed, contributed and/or maintain California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) monitoring data with the DWR.

The County intends to work cooperatively with stakeholders to develop and implement GSPs for the Basins and will maintain a list of interested parties to be included in the formation of the GSP. By this notification, the County has provided DWR with all applicable information in California Water Code Section 10723.8(a).

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact the County Groundwater Geologist, Jim Bennett, at (858) 694-3820.

Sincerely,



MARK WARDLAW, Director  
Planning & Development Services

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution No. 16-102 (Including: A – SGMA Mandated Basins in San Diego County Map; B – San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin Map; C – San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Basin Map; D – San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basin Map)

Attachment 2 – Proof of Publication

**Attachment 1 – Resolution No. 16-102  
(Including: A – SGMA Mandated Basins in San  
Diego County Map; B – San Luis Rey Valley  
Groundwater Basin Map; C – San Pasqual Valley  
Groundwater Basin Map; D – San Diego River  
Valley Groundwater Basin Map)**

Resolution No.: 16-102  
Meeting Date: 08/03/16 (3)

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO  
BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY OVER EACH OF THE SAN LUIS  
REY VALLEY, SAN PASQUAL VALLEY AND SAN DIEGO RIVER VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER BASINS.**

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law and adopted into the California Water Code, commencing with Section 10720, and became effective on January 1, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, the legislative intent of the SGMA is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins and sub-basins defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code Section 10723(a) authorizes local land use authorities, water suppliers, and certain other local agencies, or a combination of local agencies, overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the basin;

**WHEREAS**, San Diego County (County) is a local agency qualified to become a GSA under SGMA;

**WHEREAS**, the County overlies the following DWR-designated medium-priority, non-adjudicated groundwater basins identified in the DWR Bulletin No. 118, as shown on the map on Attachments "A" through "D" attached to this Resolution:

- San Luis Rey Valley (9-7)
- San Pasqual Valley (9-10)
- San Diego River Valley (9-15)

**WHEREAS**, the County recognizes that SGMA does not provide a local agency regulatory authority to implement SGMA over tribal or federal government lands;

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code Section 10723.8 requires that a local agency electing to serve as a GSA notify DWR of its election to form the GSA and undertake sustainable groundwater management within a basin;

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code Section 10723.8 mandates that within 90 days of the posting of a notice by DWR of an entity's election to form a GSA, that entity shall be presumed to be the exclusive GSA for that area unless another entity provides notice to DWR of its intent to form a GSA, or notice that the entity has formed a GSA;

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code Section 10724(a) states that if there is an area within the basin that is not within the management area of another entity, the County will be presumed to be the GSA for that area;

**WHEREAS**, no other entities have jurisdiction over the San Luis Rey Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins in their entirety;

**WHEREAS**, the County intends to work cooperatively with other local agencies and community interests to form GSAs over San Luis Rey Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins;

**WHEREAS**, the County is uniquely qualified to become GSAs over San Diego River Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basins as a result of its;

- current jurisdiction over the San Luis Rey Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins (reference Attachments “A” through “D”);
- experience in regulating groundwater through the San Diego County Groundwater Ordinance (San Diego County Code Title 6, Division 7, Chapter 7 Groundwater), and groundwater monitoring via the County’s role of administering and enforcing State standards and local ordinances pertaining to the construction or destruction of any well or boring within the County (Article 4, Section 67 of the San Diego County Code and the California Well Standards Bulletin 74-90); and
- experience in regulating groundwater use by making land use decisions based on the availability of groundwater for project use and whether or not the project will negatively impact groundwater quantity or quality.

**WHEREAS**, establishing the County as a GSA will enable the County to coordinate well permitting and extraction allocations with Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) requirements, apply uniform basin management requirements, and ensure diverse stakeholder interests are represented during GSP development for each basin;

**WHEREAS**, the County is committed to the management of its groundwater resources to create and promote sustainable groundwater use for the residents of the State of California and the County of San Diego;

**WHEREAS**, the County held a public hearing on August 3, 2016 after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code Section 6066 to consider adoption of this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, no new bylaws were adopted in conjunction with this Resolution and the County’s existing Board of Supervisors will serve for governance purposes of the GSA or until the County and other local agencies cooperatively adopt a governing structure for a unified GSA for each basin; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because it is an administrative action that does not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego does hereby elect to become a GSA for San Luis Rey Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins (DWR Basins No. 9-7, 9-10 and 9-15, respectively), pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723, as shown on Attachments “A” through “D” attached to this Resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County shall develop an outreach program to ensure that all beneficial uses and users of groundwater are considered.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Planning & Development Services is hereby directed to submit to DWR, on behalf of the County, a notice of this action to become a GSA and undertake sustainable groundwater management in accordance with SGMA for DWR Basins No. 9-7, 9-10 and 9-15.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the notification to DWR shall include the boundaries for DWR Basins No. 9-7, 9-10 and 9-15 that the County intends to sustainably manage, a copy of this Resolution, and the initial list of interested parties developed pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2, including an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and implementation of the GSP.

Approved as to form and legality

Senior Deputy County Counsel

By: Justin Crumley

ON MOTION of Supervisor Jacob, seconded by Supervisor Horn, the above Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego, State of California, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2016, by the following vote:

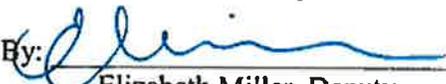
AYES: Cox, Jacob, D. Roberts, R. Roberts, Horn

- - -

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)  
County of San Diego)<sup>55</sup>

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original Resolution entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

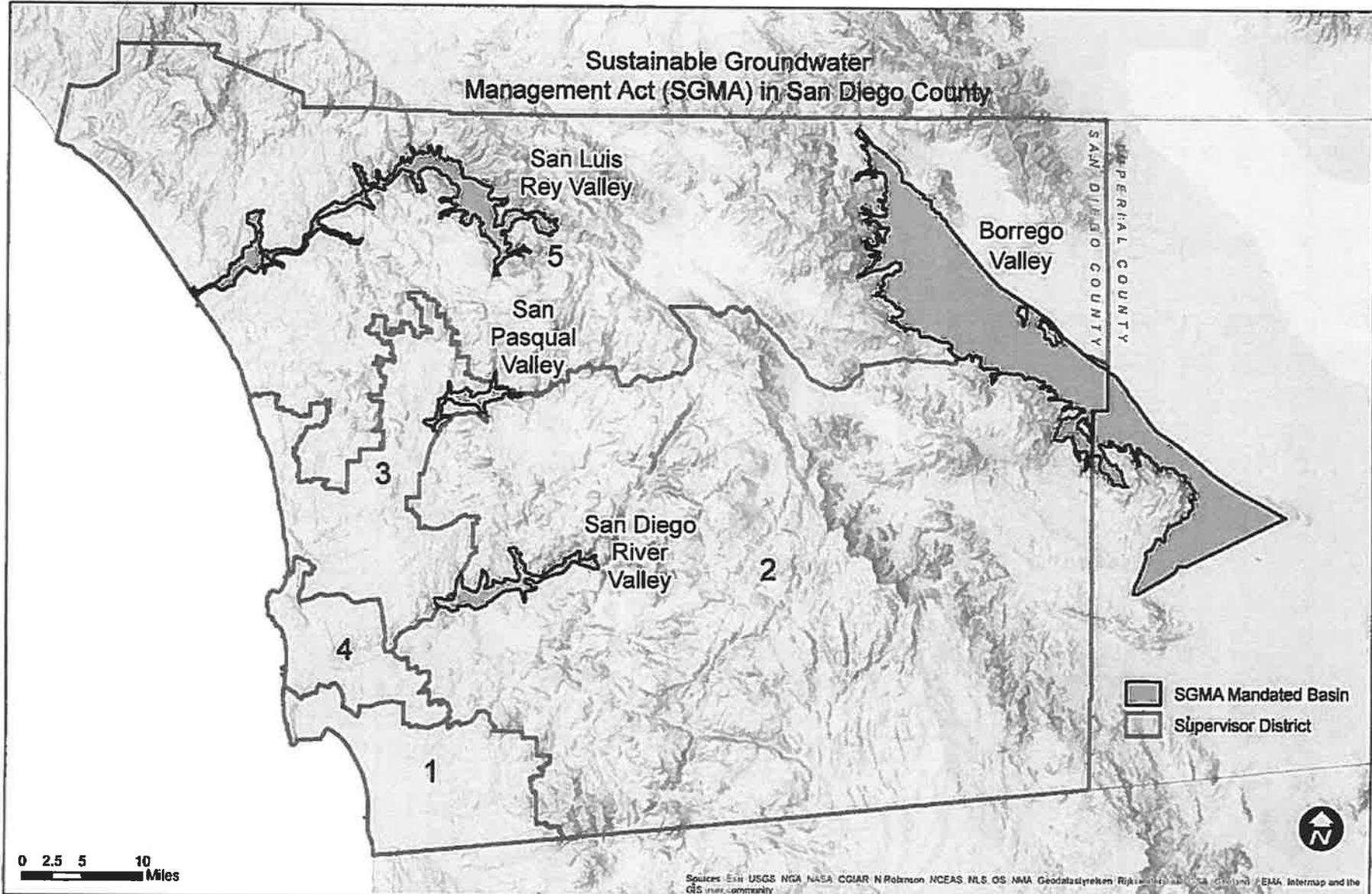
DAVID HALL  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By:   
Elizabeth Miller, Deputy



Resolution No. 16-102  
Meeting Date: 08/03/16 (3)

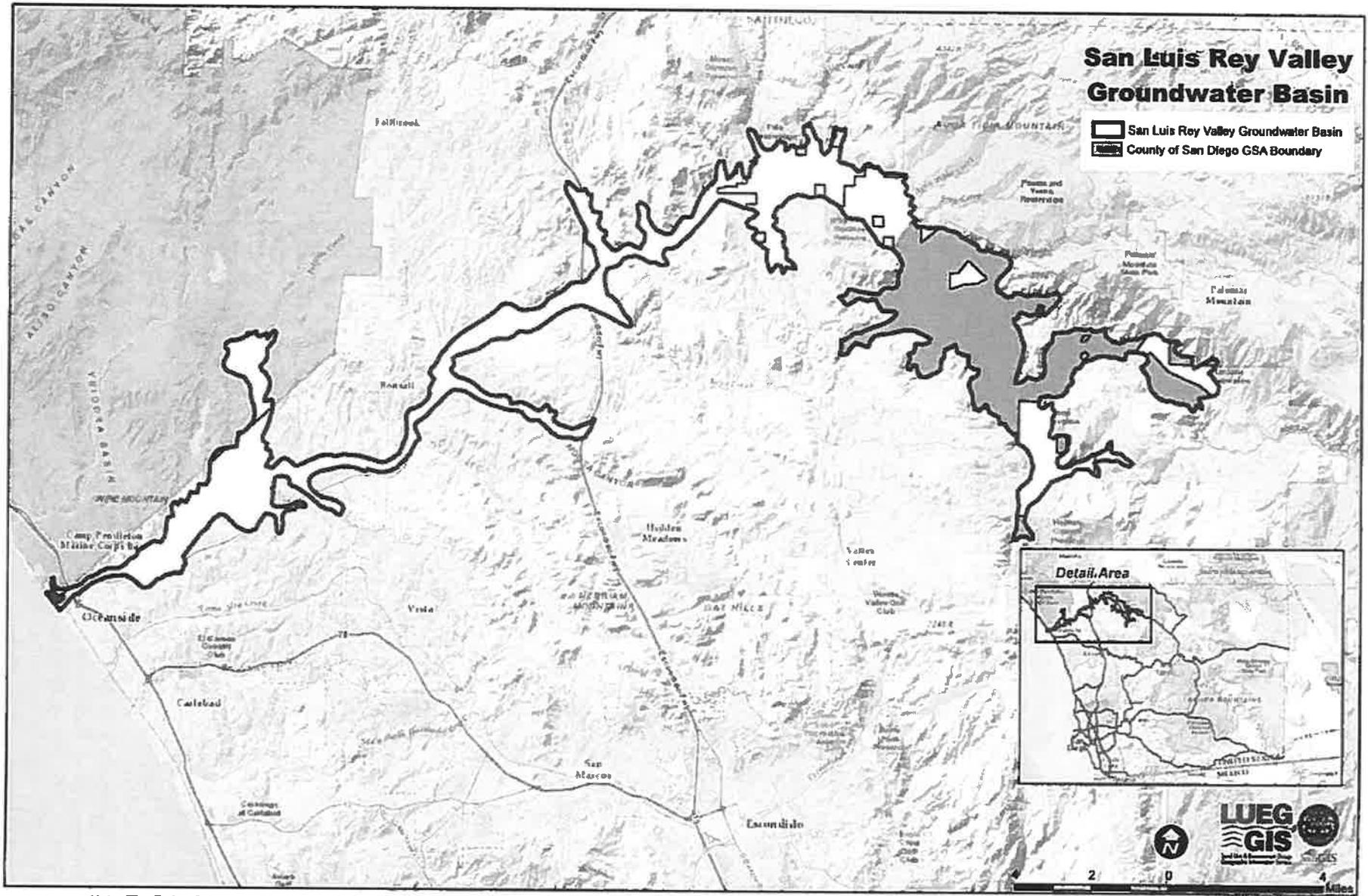
# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in San Diego County



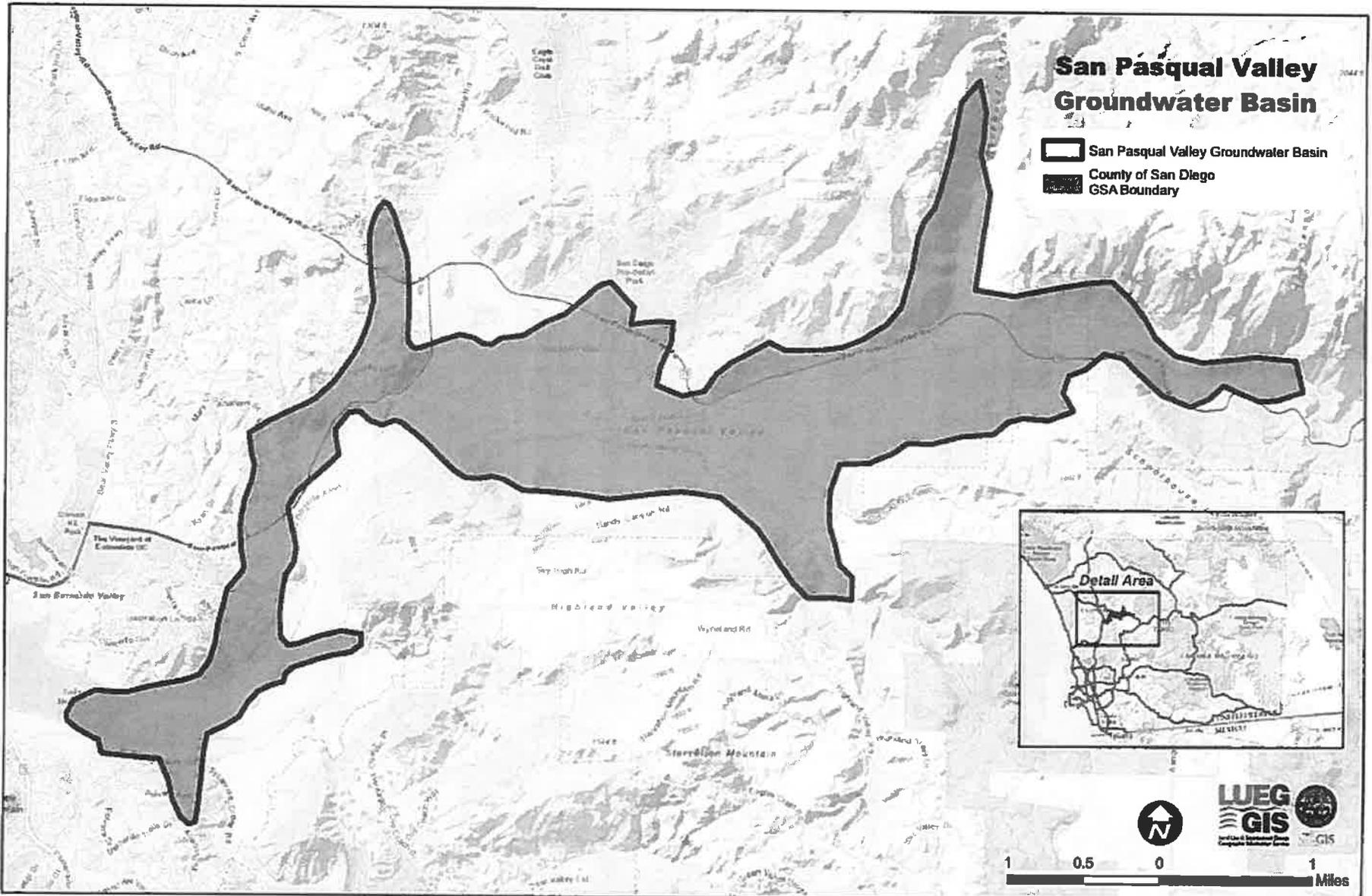
Attachment A

Sources: Esri, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N. Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasystemen, Rijksinstituut voor Milieu, EMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

File: P:\011208\_Borrego\_Valley\_June05A\_layout\_mxd - Date: 11/3/2015



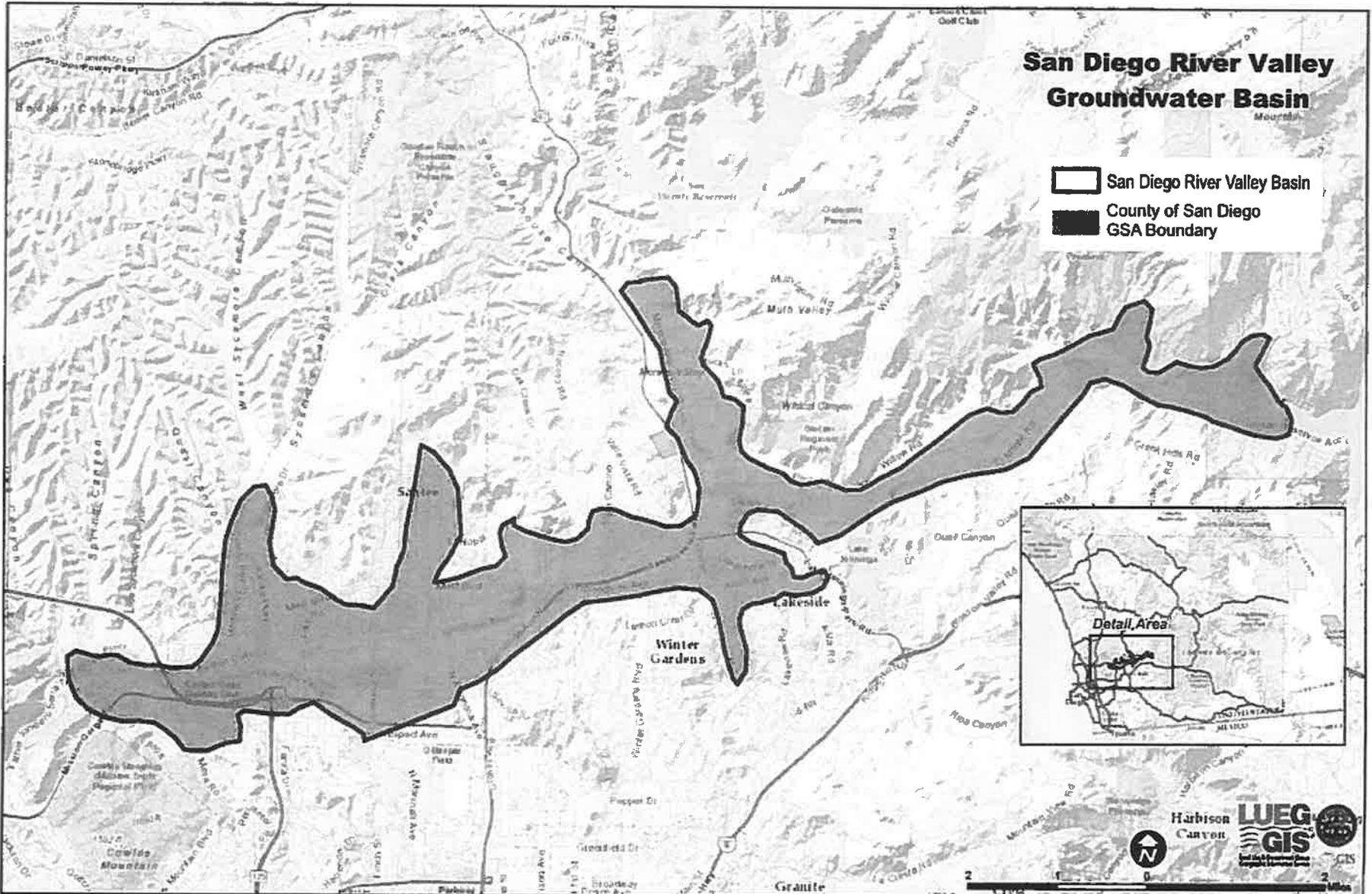
Note: The Federal government and any federally recognized Indian tribe are exempt from the requirements of SGMA and, therefore, not included in the County of San Diego GSA Boundary.



Map by LUEG GIS, Inc. for the County of San Diego, 2010. All rights reserved.

# San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basin

-  San Diego River Valley Basin
-  County of San Diego  
GSA Boundary



Attachment D

## **Attachment 2 – Proof of Publication**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
(Including Summary of Resolution)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego will hold a public hearing on whether to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency over each of the San Luis Rey Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins which includes the following proposed Resolution:

“RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY OVER EACH OF THE SAN LUIS REY VALLEY, SAN PASQUAL VALLEY AND SAN DIEGO RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASINS.”

**HEARING INFORMATION:**

	<b>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b>
Date:	August 3, 2016
Time:	9:00 A.M. (at or after)
Location:	County Administration Center, Room 310, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:** This item is a request for the Board of Supervisors to consider a resolution to establish a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) over the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin (SLR Basin), the San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Basin (San Pasqual Basin) and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basin (SD River Basin) in accordance with the State of California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The primary purpose of a GSA under SGMA is to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability.

**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTION:** Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency over each of the San Luis Rey Valley, San Pasqual Valley and San Diego River Valley Groundwater Basins.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** It is recommended that the proposed action be determined to be exempt from environmental review, under Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the resolution to become GSAs over the SLR Basin, San Pasqual Basin and SD River Basins is an administrative activity that does not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** This public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If interpreter services for the hearing impaired are needed, please call the Americans With Disabilities Coordinator at (619) 531-5205 or California Relay Service, if notifying by TDD, no later than seven days prior to the date of the hearing.

If you challenge the Board’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Hearing Body at or before the hearing. Rules of the Hearing Body may limit or impose requirements on the submittal of such written correspondence.

A copy of the full text of the resolution is posted at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Room 402 of County Administration Center.

For additional information regarding this proposal, contact Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist, at (858) 694-3820.

THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT

2652 4TH AVE 2ND FL, SAN DIEGO, CA 92103  
Telephone (619) 232-3486 / Fax (619) 270-2503

This space for filing stamp only

Renee Loewer  
SD CO CLERK OF THE BOARD  
1600 PACIFIC HWY., RM. 402  
SAN DIEGO, CA - 92101

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

State of California )  
County of SAN DIEGO ) ss

Notice Type: GOV - GOVERNMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Ad Description:

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of SAN DIEGO, and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California by the Superior Court of the County of SAN DIEGO, State of California, under date of 05/13/2003, Case No. GIC808715. That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

07/18/2016, 07/25/2016

Executed on: 07/25/2016  
At Los Angeles, California

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Signature

SD #: 2904262

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
(Including Summary of Resolution)

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those issues you or someone else raised at a public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Hearing Body at or before the hearing. Rules of the Hearing Body may limit or impose requirements on the submittal of such written correspondence.

A copy of the full text of the resolution is posted at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Room 402 of County Administration Center.

For additional information regarding this proposal, contact Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist, at (655) 694-3920, 7/18, 7/25/16

SD-2904262#



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